

### Unit 3: Isochrones

Locate and briefly examine the following files:

```
isochrones/1Gyr-0.019Z.txt  
programs/plot_isochrones.py
```

From the programs/ directory, plot an isochrone with age 1Gyr and  $Z = 0.019$  on top of the CMD of your cluster. For example, if you've chosen cluster ap15656, type:

```
python plot_isochrones.py --name ap15657 --Z 0.019 --age 1
```

That isochrone probably didn't fit the cluster very well; **your task is to estimate the age of your cluster via isochrone fitting. The following steps will get you started.**

Go to the following link:

[http://stev.oapd.inaf.it/cgi-bin/cmd\\_2.5](http://stev.oapd.inaf.it/cgi-bin/cmd_2.5)

Scroll down to the bottom.

Under Ages/Metallicities: Select "Single Isochrone" and enter the age of the isochrone you wish to generate. You can also enter the metal abundance  $Z$  of the cluster. For reference,  $Z_{\text{sun}} = 0.019$ , so if you want a cluster with the same metallicity as the sun ( $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = 0$ ), enter  $Z = 0.019$ . If you want a cluster ten times more metal-poor than the sun ( $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] = -1$ ), enter  $Z = 0.0019$ .

Under Output: Select "Isochrone tables."

Hit the Submit button and download your results table. Save it in your "isochrones" folder. `plot_isochrones.py` currently expects you to name it in this format:  
age + 'Gyr-' + metallicity + 'Z.txt'

For example:

1Gyr-0.019Z.txt

7Gyr-0.0006Z.txt

Once you've saved your output, you can run `plot_isochrones.py` again to plot your isochrone on top of the CMD of your cluster.

**You can generate and plot multiple isochrones to estimate the age of your cluster.**